

Scottish Souls to be Remembered in Mount Hope Cemetery



By Elsie Taylor Cleary

The Scottish Heritage Society of Rochester, NY
is excited to announce a legacy project
in Mount Hope Cemetery's historic Old Scottish Burial Plot:

A Scottish Memorial

Our goal, with your generous help, is to raise \$4,500
to erect a fitting, engraved, granite Memorial,
to honour all of the long-forgotten souls
interred in unmarked graves.

*Be among the first to support this extraordinary fundraising effort. Every dollar counts!
Those who donate \$25 or more will receive a handsome Certificate of Appreciation
and a special invitation to the Dedication Ceremony.*

You can donate with PayPal at www.rocscots.org/members.html
Or, you can use the form below



The Scottish Heritage Society
is a non-profit
501(C)(3)
charitable organization
www.rocscots.org

Our purposes are

- To perpetuate Scottish traditions and culture
- To promote the establishment of clan societies and Scottish organizations
- To encourage and support Scottish activities

I would like to contribute \$_____ to the Scottish Memorial Fund. Check # _____
Name _____ Email or tel # _____
Address _____

Mail your check to: The Scottish Heritage Society, P.O. Box 26669, Rochester, NY 14626

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Enter the main gate of beautiful Mount Hope Cemetery then stroll up a gentle hill to the first grand circle. Beyond, in a giant sweeping hollow is the ancient kettle pond Sylvan Waters. To the left, up some stone steps, lies the original Old Scottish Burial Plot.

One or two gravestones there have barely survived the ravages of time, but all the original hand-hewn wooden crosses have long since disappeared. Thousands of visitors pass this place every year, unaware of its rich history.

Most Scots arriving in Rochester over a century and a half ago brought staunch Protestant beliefs and the hope for a bright future. Sadly, dozens of Scots-born immigrants fell on hard times. In their time of need many families could not afford a proper burial, let alone a headstone, for their loved ones. Instead of prospering, it was all they could do to avoid a pauper's grave.

This need had been seen by



Elsie Taylor Cleary, SHS researcher, at Main Gate

stalwarts of the close-knit, caring Scottish community. They formed an association to run events such as a Burns Supper, which raised money to provide aid to the impoverished. That association was the forerunner of our Scottish Heritage Society today. A Burns Supper is still held, after all these years!

With funds donated by Angus McDonald, a steamship ticket agent, a piece of land in Mount



Rochester Scottish Pipes and Drums to perform at Dedication Ceremony

Hope cemetery was purchased in 1851. Such a generous act provided a dignified final resting place for kinsmen, women and babes. The final burial took place in 1904 and the Old Scottish Burial Plot was filled to capacity.

It is fitting that our present-day Society also saw a need. A board decision was made to provide a lasting tribute to these long-forgotten Scots, bringing forth their names from dusty archives into the light.

Mount Hope Cemetery management advised the Society on guidelines for materials, dimensions and the location of the Scottish Memorial. The Society is currently negotiating a contract with a local monument maker, who will use Vermont grey granite, and engrave the names as well as birth and death dates of all 76 occupants.

Because of the close proximity

of existing interments and the regulations for a four-foot deep concrete foundation, the Memorial may only be installed on the front bank of the plot.

Our goal is to raise \$4,500, to cover all costs. The Society is encouraging donations from 'a the airts' - all points of the compass - to help us in this endeavour. For our part, we are directing membership dues as well as profits from upcoming events to add to this fund.

When the Scottish Memorial is permanently installed we look forward to inviting you to a special Dedication Ceremony, with Scottish bagpipes and a recitation of the 76 names.

Please consider being a part of this meaningful project - make a charitable donation to our Scottish Memorial fund!



A rendering of the 6 ft x 1.5 ft steeled slant face, serpentine top Memorial, at Old Scottish Burial Plot.